(b) The service when fully operational will be open to all.

(c) The time factor for physical delivery depends on a variety of factors like IT connectivity, uptime of the network, distances involved from the money order receiving centre to the location of the recipient etc.

(d) Charges are to be finalized on the basis of bilateral agreements and may vary from country to country.

Rural community phones

1827. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Rural Community Phones (RCP) provided by the private telecom operators in the country as per the contractual obligation as on 31st December, 2006;

(b) the targets fixed by Government for provision of RCPs *vis-a-vis* the achievements made by the private operators during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps Government have taken against those private operators who have failed to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Reliance Infocom Limited (RIL) is the only private telecom operator providing Rural Community Phones (RCPs). The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with RIL in September, 2004 for provision of 21,459 RCPs in identified villages with population of more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs). The target of provision of 21,459 was subsequently revised to 21,431 RCPs. As on 31st December, 2006, RIL has provided 14,620 RCPs.

(b) As per roll out condition, RIL had to provide 20% of the RCPs by September, 2005 and another 40% by September, 2006, which was subsequently extended to December, 2006.

A statement indicating the targets fixed by the Government for provision of RCPs *vis-a-vis* the achievements made by the private operators during

each of the last three years is given below:—

Year of Agreement	Target	Achievement
First Year of Agreement (Upto September, 2006)	4,291	4,820
Second Year of Agreement (Upto December, 2006)	8,584	9,800
Third Year of Agreement	8,556	911 (Up to 31.01.2007)

The remaining RCPs are likely to be provided by September, 2007.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Phone connections of Bangladesh

†1828 SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that phone connections provided by Bangladesh are being used in North-Eastern region, especially in areas adjoining Bangladesh;

(b) whether Government have failed in providing services of BSNL or any other domestic phone network there;

(c) the estimated loss being caused to Government each year due to use of foreign network; and

(d) by when domestic phone facility or cellular network is likely to be provided by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) It was reported that mobile signal of service provider of Bangladesh is available in some places in the villages along the international border. Without authentic information regarding details of usage, it is not possible to estimate loss. Ministry of External Affairs is handling the issue of presence of signals of mobile operators of Bangladesh within the geographical territory of India at diplomatic level with the Government of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.